

As a matter of background, this filing follows our response mailed on January 7, 2003, which was responsive to an Office Action of August 7, 2002. This filing also follows an instructional voicemail by Mr. Douglas Woods of the Office of Petitions, which was left on October 9, 2003.

On October 2, 2003, the undersigned's assistant called to follow up with the Office of Petitions and spoke with Ms. Beth Anne Daton, who advised that a Decision Refusing Status had been mailed to the undersigned on May 6, 2003. Upon being informed that the undersigned had not received a copy of the Decision, Ms. Daton sent a copy of the Decision via facsimile to applicants' attorney on October 2, 2003. Given this series of events, which includes a misrouted PTO mailing of a Decision Refusing Status, applicants submit that a time-extension fee should

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LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

not apply to this filing. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-1740. This authorization also hereby includes a request for any extensions of time of the appropriate length required upon the filing of any reply during the entire prosecution of this application. A copy of this document is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

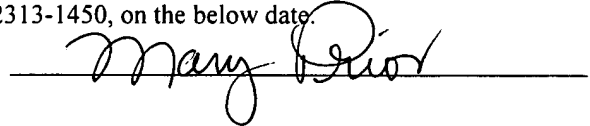
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}



Scott Y. Shigeta
Registration No. 50,398
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1722

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to MAIL STOP PETITION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: November 4, 2003



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LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100